



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE ESSEX DISTRICT
SALEM NEWBURYPORT LAWRENCE

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Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

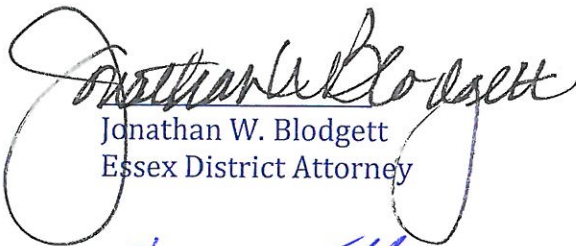
As the prom and graduation season approaches, please join us in an effort to protect our students and keep them safe and sober.


Parents and guardians, working closely with school officials and law enforcement, can prevent alcohol-related tragedies through clear and direct communication with their children. Teens are less likely to drink alcohol if their parents are specific about rules, expectations and consequences.

Underage drinking may result in significant legal and social consequences for students and their parents. It is a crime to furnish alcohol to underage guests in your home or on other property you control, even if you supervise them.


If you serve alcohol to underage guests, or even allow them to drink alcohol they bring in your home, you can be prosecuted criminally and you might also be sued civilly for harm to your guests or injuries they cause to others.

This is a happy and important time in your child's life. Let's work together to make this prom and graduation season a safe one for our children. Please visit mass.gov/essexda for more information and tips on keeping your child safe.


Jonathan W. Blodgett
Essex District Attorney


Police Chief


Superintendent


Principal

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY JONATHAN BLODGETT



A SAFE PROM AND GRADUATION IS A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

This is a special time of celebration for parents and students who are graduating from high school.

We all want our young people to enjoy these important milestones, and we have a shared responsibility to ensure that their celebrations are safe and lawful, free of drug use and underage drinking. Unfortunately, one poor decision involving alcohol can result in tragedy for not only the young person, but for his or her family, friends and their entire community.

Teen drinking is associated with serious negative behaviors and outcomes, including motor vehicle crashes, sexual assault, alcohol poisoning, drowning, falls and suicide. Simply taking away the keys is not enough.

An important part of our responsibility as leaders in the community and as parents is to set limits that help ensure teens' safety, and proms and graduation are no exception. Furnishing alcohol to minors is against the law and could have civil ramifications as well.

Please join me and your local school and police department in promoting a safe and sober prom and graduation season so that all young people enjoy this exciting time of their lives safely. *Please visit www.mass.gov/essexda for more information.*

